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1-888-4HEP-CDC

Hepatitis E Fact Sheet

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS	Highest attack rate among persons aged 15-40 years	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• jaundice• fatigue• abdominal pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• loss of appetite• nausea, vomiting• dark (tea colored) urine
CAUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hepatitis E virus (HEV)	
LONG-TERM EFFECTS WITHOUT VACCINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no chronic (long-term) infection• Hepatitis E is more severe among pregnant women, especially in third trimester	
TRANSMISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HEV is found in the stool (feces) of persons and animals with hepatitis E.• HEV is spread by eating or drinking contaminated food or water.• Transmission from person to person occurs less commonly than with hepatitis A virus• Most outbreaks in developing countries have been associated with contaminated drinking water.	
RISK GROUPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travelers to developing countries, particularly in South Asia and North Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rare cases have occurred in the United States among persons with no history of travel to endemic countries
PREVENTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always wash your hands with soap and water after using the bathroom, changing a diaper, and before preparing and eating food• Avoid drinking water (and beverages with ice) of unknown purity, uncooked shellfish, and uncooked fruits or vegetables that are not peeled or prepared by the traveler.	
TREATMENT & MEDICAL MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treatment is supportive	
TRENDS & STATISTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hepatitis E remains uncommon in the United States. Routine surveillance data are not available.	